June 21, 1969

Dear Paul,

Got your letter of June 19 with enclosures. Thanks. You should by now have another letter from me--we crossed in the mail.

Dick Slater dropped in here and stayed for a while, and I helped edit some of his stuff. His stories of the Berkeley clash were scary. He is off into the artic circle, by canoe, to hunt for the last settlement of the Inland Eskimo.

I would greatly appreciate a copy of the National Enquirer story. As you have probably realized what concerned me most was to have a better copy of that picture of the girl, and more important to know its origin.

The memos on Boxley were typed hurridley by Vince, and I think both Mumu and Tom Bethell. The spelling errors are typical of Vince. Vince spoke to the staff as did Harold, and they got relatively consistent stories about both Boxley and Turner according to what they told me. Beyond the flak and craziness in what they did and produced, the most damning thing was what they sold JG on in terms of that plot theory he was to release to the news media last Nov. 22, along with the announcement of arrests.

Many thanks for the list of letters which might pertain to Kara-P. I think I have them all, but if I don't, I will send for them. Both Hal and I went through that entire file, and I remember at least the first two of those right off. I just don't understand what could have happened to our copies of 1330. I had two (accidentally double ordered) and gave a copy to Harold besides.

After all my talk, I have been unable to put together all my notes from my last trip to the Archives, and in addition, have been unable to get on with the cataloguing.

From your letter to Harold, I can answer a few items:
Dave Lifton says that he can get microfilm printed out for free, but he hasn't said a word about it since. He wanted to get a large order from the Archives, with the costs shared by you, me, Sylvia, him, and someone else. Sorry, take that back, he said that he could get it printed out very cheaply, and then could get it xeroxed cheaply.

There have been a number of attempts to get replies from the Panel doctors. I have one research studying up for Moritz (who lives near him), and Don Olson's thesis adviser has gotten replies from Fisher (who he knows), but Fisher will not give Olson any info now and seems to have gotten apprehensive. I have a source in the JD which is also still open, although out of touch for the present. Harold has also tried. I am trying to get a good pathologist from here to do it also, although if I can't, I will use my stationary which sometimes gets quick results.

Bud's group has gotten out a fair amount of the Washington trial material. The transcript of the NO trial is due to be printed up as soon as there are 6 buyers, at $2500 per set! (The only one the last time we phoned them was the guy who did the Esquire piece on Garrison. Interesting enough, the Ford Foundation offered to pay a large sum of money for permission to tape the trial If you like, I could make you a large packet of some things from JG's files for your xerox. I can't get xeroxing done for less than 7¢ a page. As for Life, they are still holding out on the Betzner photos, as of a week ago or so, so Z film slides sound out of the question. By now I assume that you have a Z film copy from one of the two people from LA you mentioned in your letters. Sprague has a vast store of photos and I don't know what is available. Fred Newcomb has a huge collection, with most of what Sprague has, so he is probably the best guy to contact. I have a B&W copy of the Muchmore, plus some interesting UPI newsfootage of what happened just after the shots, plus the shooting of LHO, etc., and have sent Fred an excellent copy. Anything of this sort I get is usually from Fred, so you should check with him.

On your analysis of Fred's "Last Train," a few items:

1. Have you sent it to Fred?
2. The Nix film analysis contains integrated images showing this train, and it appears to be right behind the pergola. It is hard to believe that this is far from the pergola.
3. Agreed on the foliage in the Willis and Betzner photos.
4. Agreed that the train is not definitely visible in the Betzner photo.
5. I don't agree that the idea of a train for an escape is plausible, "regardless of exactly where the train was, when it left the area," etc. It would have been far easier, and required fewer accomplices or less conspiracy, to run to behind the TSBD, rather than ride in a train. It is easier to see the train as a wall to people running into the yards from the front. Was it a train running through the yards and down the line, that would be different, since it would immediately take them away, and then could plan on catching it by knowing the train schedule. That is, of course, unless elaborate plans were made for hiding on a train, in terms of some sort of a compartment that wouldn't be searched, etc.
6. Fred's research raises many questions in my mind, but I think that his speculations are premature. There is other evidence to be examined first, and there is a need for a better study of the elevations involved, etc. Perhaps I can do that when I am in Dallas. I was much surer of this after I saw the slide set, but before I noticed the Towner photo in Life, and had more time to examine the stuff carefully.

Your mention of Bethell's memo on what Bud told him must refer to Bud's interview of "Sylvia Odio." Bud told me that she never said a word the whole time and that she just nodded her head. Before I had time to reel in disbelief, he went on to say that it was the wrong Sylvia Odio. He never got around to telling me why he thought it was the right Sylvia Odio in the first place. From my correspondence with Bud, talks with him, etc., I find him a seemingl sincere fellow who would really like to get this investigation going, but whose ability to evaluate evidence, especially given that he is a lawyer, is very poor. When I first met him he practically claimed that the crime was solved, and said that the evidence indicates involvement of Lawrence, Crisman, Bradley, etc. When I pinned him down on each one, he eventually retreated. Again, on Turner, he admitted to all of the things which he knew had happened, and Turner's involvement in them, and even to Turner's falsehoods and deceptions, but want on to say that this would not disqualify Turner from becoming a member of the board of his committee.

Your idea of getting a standard form together for the critics to list what they have from the Archives is good. This should have been done long ago.

Well, good luck with your work. Give my regards to Hal. Best wishes for a good summer.

Gary

cc: Harold